

which he had been betrayed by his thirst for knowledge. Great was his disappointment to discover a narrow ridge,—with the sea on either side,—a ridge narrower and sharper than the top of the highest pitched roof. Here, however, he rested for a few minutes, sitting astride on the ridge—a surging sea below; and, above him, two tremendous perpendicular pinnacles, between two and three hundred feet in elevation. These actually vibrated with the force of the wind, and appeared altogether so shattered and unstable that it was a marvel they remained erect. From this dangerous position Scoresby made haste to retire, and happily succeeded in accomplishing the descent in safety.

Yet another incident, to illustrate the perils attendant upon Arctic exploration.

It was the 11th of August. Captain Scoresby being greatly fatigued by keeping the deck nearly all day, exposed to a fall of rain so heavy and incessant as to defy the usual defence of capes and wrappers, retired to bed about midnight, leaving the ship in charge of the chief mate. After enjoying a couple of hours' repose, the captain's attention was aroused by the circumstance that the ship tacked twice in about